

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful examination given to the present application. The application has been reviewed in light of the Office action, and it is respectfully submitted that the application as amended is patentable over the art of record. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 2 and 3 have been written in independent form.

The disclosure is objected to. The disclosure has been amended to correct the informalities as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-7 are objected to. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to correct the informalities as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 4, and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tomomatsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,872). Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to more clearly point out and claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tomomatsu does not disclose or teach a step where "said work is raised further by a predetermined margin from a normal height position of a lower surface of the mask plate so that said contact between the work and the mask plate is in a state under pressure from below" as recited in amended claims 1 and 5.

Tomomatsu discloses that a printed circuit board is brought just under a mask plate (Abstract). Tomomatsu does not disclose or teach a step where the mask plate is raised further by a predetermined margin from a normal height position of the lower surface of the mask plate. Tomomatsu also does not disclose or teach a step which causes the contact between the work and

Appl. No. 10/647,633
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mask plate to be in a state under pressure from below. Therefore, Tomomatsu does not disclose or teach all the elements of the claimed invention.

Claims 2 and 3 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 2 and 3 are in allowable condition.

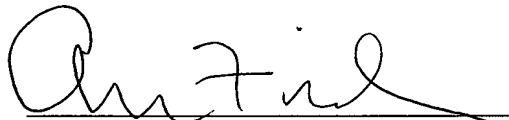
In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application as amended is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 36069.

Respectfully submitted,

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